

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1-9. (canceled)
10. (original) A method of configuring a networking device, comprising:
- generating a first forwarding table;
 - generating a second forwarding table;
 - programming a filter to perform a lookup operation in the first forwarding table if a first field value of a received packet meets one or more conditions of a first set of conditions;
 - programming the filter to initiate a lookup operation in the second forwarding table if the first field value does not meet one or more conditions of the first set of conditions.
11. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, where the ~~wherein the step~~ of generating a first forwarding table comprises ~~the substep of~~ generating a first forwarding table containing an entry corresponding to a first label switched path.
12. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, where the ~~wherein the step~~ of generating a second forwarding table comprises ~~the substep of~~ generating a second forwarding table containing an entry corresponding to a second label switched path.

13 - 16. (canceled)

17. (original) A networking device comprising:

a memory for storing a first forwarding table and a second forwarding table;

a filter programmed to initiate a lookup operation in the first forwarding table if a first field value of a header contained in a received packet meets a first set of conditions and to initiate a lookup operation in the second forwarding table if the first field value does not meet one or more conditions of the first set of conditions.

18. (currently amended) The networking device of claim 17, ~~wherein~~ where the first forwarding table contains an entry corresponding to a first label switched path.

19. (currently amended) The networking device of claim 18, ~~wherein~~ where the second forwarding table contains an entry corresponding to a second label switched path.

20. (currently amended) The networking device of claim 17, further comprising:

a plurality of ingress interfaces for receiving packets;

a plurality of egress interfaces for transmitting packets,

~~wherein~~ where each of the lookup operations results in an identification of

an egress interface from which the received packet is to be transmitted.

21. (new) In a router containing a plurality of forwarding tables, a method of packet forwarding, comprising:

receiving a packet at an ingress interface;

classifying the received packet based on at least a first field value contained in the header of the packet;

associating one of the plurality of forwarding tables to the packet according to its classification;

performing a lookup operation in the associated forwarding table according to at least a second field value contained in the header of the packet;

determining an egress interface based on the lookup operation; and

transmitting the received packet from the determined egress interface.

22. (new) The method of claim 21, where the classifying comprises determining whether the first field value meets one or more criteria.

23. (new) The method of claim 22, where the classifying further comprises assigning a default classification if none of the criteria are met.

24. (new) The method of claim 21, where a first forwarding table contains an entry corresponding to a first label switched path.

25. (new) The method of claim 24, where the first forwarding table contains an entry corresponding to a second label switched path.

26. (new) In a networking device, a method of forwarding packets, comprising:

classifying a received packet based on information contained in the packet;

selecting one of a plurality of forwarding tables based on the classification of the received packet;

performing a lookup operation using the selected forwarding table; and

determining an egress interface for the packet based on the performed lookup operation.

27. (new) A method of configuring a networking device, comprising:

generating a first forwarding table including information identifying a first plurality of egress interface ports;

generating a second forwarding table including information identifying a second plurality of egress interface ports;

programming a filter to initiate a lookup operation in the first forwarding table if a first field value of a received packet meets one or more conditions of a first set of conditions;

programming the filter to initiate a lookup operation in the second forwarding table if a first field value meets one or more conditions of a second set of conditions.

28. (new) The method of claim 27, where generating a first forwarding table comprises generating a first forwarding table containing an entry corresponding to a first label switched path.

29. (new) The method of claim 28, where generating a second forwarding table comprises generating a second forwarding table containing an entry corresponding to a second label switched path.

30. (new) A networking device comprising:
a memory for storing a first forwarding table and a second forwarding table, the first forwarding table and the second forwarding table including information identifying a plurality of egress interfaces; and
a filter programmed to initiate a lookup operation in the first forwarding table if a first field value of a header contained in a received packet meets one or more conditions of a first set of conditions and to initiate a lookup operation in the second forwarding table if the first field value meets one or more conditions of a second set of conditions.

31. (new) The networking device of claim 30, where the first forwarding

table contains an entry corresponding to a first label switched path.

32. (new) The networking device of claim 31, where the second forwarding table contains an entry corresponding to a second label switched path.

33. (new) The networking device of claim 30, further comprising:
a plurality of ingress interfaces for receiving packets;
the plurality of egress interfaces for transmitting packets,
wherein each of the lookup operations results in an identification of an egress interface from which the received packet is to be transmitted.